



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org



Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

RE: HCR 223/HR 198 - URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OFFER
VEGETARIAN MEAL OPTIONS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT LEAST ONCE WEEKLY.

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HCR 223/HR 198, with suggested amendment**, urging the Department of Education to offer vegetarian meal options in all public schools at least once weekly.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association recognizes that healthy eating habits have a direct correlation to thriving as a student. Vegetarian diets have been shown to help reduce the chances of developing diabetes. They also can lower cholesterol levels and decrease the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Hawai'i has seen an increase in its obesity rate every year, but one, over the last two decades according to the [2017 The State of Obesity report](#). This request can help change this trend as well as set students up for better eating habits later in life.

HSTA has the following suggested amendment to page 1, line 19:
“chances of developing diabetes, as well as lower cholesterol levels, and decrease the risk of cardiovascular disease, among other benefits”

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks that your committee to **support** HCR 223/HR 198.



LATE

To: The House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Monday, 3/18/19

In support of HR 198

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org supports **HR 198**.

Reduction in meat consumption can be beneficial not only to the environment but to the health of Hawaii's students. A vegetarian diet has been shown to reduce the chances of developing diabetes, lower cholesterol, and decrease the risk of cardiovascular disease, among other benefits. Offering vegetarian options can promote a healthy lifestyle for our youth, in addition to helping combat global warming as a result of reduced greenhouse gases associated with more plant-based eating. Hundreds of schools across the United States, including Kamehameha Schools Maui, have already made the decision to support the health of students and to promote environmentally conscious eating and have adopted a Meatless Monday lunch program. It is time to afford this benefit option to all our students now!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:06:04 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Reduction in meat consumption can be beneficial not only to the environment but to the health of Hawaii's students. A vegetarian diet has been shown to reduce the chances of developing diabetes, lower cholesterol, and decrease the risk of cardiovascular disease, among other benefits. Offering vegetarian options can promote a healthy lifestyle for our youth, in addition to helping combat global warming as a result of reduced greenhouse gases associated with more plant-based eating. Hundreds of schools across the United States, including Kamehameha Schools Maui, have already made the decision to support the health of students and to promote environmentally conscious eating and have adopted a Meatless Monday lunch program. It is time to afford this benefit option to all our students now!

www.WeAreOne.cc

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 9:00:45 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lowell Burton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Meat consumption is one of the most damaging factors for the environment. The meat industry is a leading cause of deforestation and desertification in the world, a major contributor to the production of methane (an ozone-destroying greenhouse gas), and the global sale/shipping of commercialized meat (as opposed to buying local meat from your local butcher) has a huge carbon footprint. Hawaii in particular should be moving towards reducing meat consumption since all non-local food has to be shipped in by boat or plane, which requires literal tons of fossil fuels to transport it here. Requiring a vegetarian meal every week in schools would give schools the opportunity to educate their students on how to be responsible consumers, would reduce Hawaii's carbon footprint, and would allow the school system to support more local farmers to create vegetarian menus. Hawaii should be doing whatever it can to care for the 'aina, and every move towards supporting local farmers (and local meat/fish procurement for non-vegetarian meals) keeps us in line with these important cultural beliefs.

LATE

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 7:15:28 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Janezic	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Have you eaten your vegetables? We grew up being told to eat our veggies, that they were important for our health. Those claims are backed up by science. Far too many people in Hawaii -- and the rest of the U.S. -- rely on meat heavy diets. Their health suffers for it. Nearly 6% of every adult in Hawaii has diabetes. Heart disease, stroke, and cancer are also rampant in Hawaii and meat heavy diets exacerbate all of these (reference: nutritionfacts.org.) We need to teach children when they're young to appreciate, enjoy and EAT plant-based foods. A good first step is to offer vegetarian and vegan options for their lunches. Ideally it would be more than once weekly, but since once weekly is on the table let's get it going. I strongly support HR198. Please adopt this measure now.

LATE

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 9:43:03 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Silver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 10:09:28 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Healthier students, less greenhouse gas, more efficient use of food!

mahalo,

Cory Harden

LATE

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:13:00 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
christine trecker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to support HR198. The evidence is clear that most American diets are deficient in healthy foods such as vegetables and fruit. It's time to model healthy eating in our schools by regularly providing vegetarian meal options. Our children deserve wholesome food!

Thank you.

LATE

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:35:31 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David M Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support vegetarian meals in the schools. I went vegetarian when I was 13 while attending a charter school on the mainland. Then when I returned to Maui (I was born and raised in Maui til age 10) at 16 to attend a public school I had to bring my own meals to feel satisfied. I wish there was a complete vegetarian meal option then. So now I'm happy this bill will do just that, so pass it with the animals, people, and planet in mind.

Thank you,

David Johnston

LATE

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:27:42 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HR198. A main reason why US children don't have healthier eating patterns is the lack of exposure to alternatives.

Thank you for your time.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

LATE

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:39:32 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: LHE Committee

From: Joan Gannon

Re: HR198/HCR223. Please support this resolution. Reduction of meat consumption can benefit not only the environment but also the health of Hawaii's students.

Thank you

LATE

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 8:45:55 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Severine Busquet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi all:

Offering vegetarian options can promote a healthy lifestyle for our youth. In addition, plant-based eating helps combat global warming as a result of reduced greenhouse gases. It is time to afford this benefit option to all our students now!

Please support HR198.
Thanks for your attention.

Severine Busquet
Honolulu, Hi 96825

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 11:16:48 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Boyne	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Reduction in meat consumption can be beneficial not only to the environment but to the health of Hawaii's students. A vegetarian diet has been shown to reduce the chances of developing diabetes, lower cholesterol, and decrease the risk of cardiovascular disease, among other benefits. Offering vegetarian options can promote a healthy lifestyle for our youth, in addition to helping combat global warming as a result of reduced greenhouse gases associated with more plant-based eating. Hundreds of schools across the United States, including Kamehameha Schools Maui, have already made the decision to support the health of students and to promote environmentally conscious eating and have adopted a Meatless Monday lunch program. It is time to afford this benefit option to all our students now!

LATE

HR-198

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 12:11:32 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/18/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Graham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Reduction in meat consumption can be beneficial not only to the environment but to the health of Hawaii's students. A vegetarian diet has been shown to reduce the chances of developing diabetes, lower cholesterol, and decrease the risk of cardiovascular disease, among other benefits. Offering vegetarian options can promote a healthy lifestyle for our youth, in addition to helping combat global warming as a result of reduced greenhouse gases associated with more plant-based eating. Hundreds of schools across the United States, including Kamehameha Schools Maui, have already made the decision to support the health of students and to promote environmentally conscious eating and have adopted a Meatless Monday lunch program. It is time to afford this benefit option to all our students now!